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August 12, 2019

**SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ECFS**

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte in the Matter of Petition for Rulemaking to Amend and Modernize  
Part 54 of the Commission's Rules, RM-11841  
CC Docket No. 02-6 and WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules,<sup>1</sup> the undersigned hereby provides notice of an oral ex parte meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2019 with Travis Litman, wireline advisor for Commissioner Rosenworcel. Attendees were Dr. Gordon Taylor, Executive Director, Region 10 Education Service Center; Brent Goerner, Director/Chief Technology Officer, Region 10 Education Service Center; Dr. Clyde Steelman, Executive Director, Education Service Center Region 11; Rory Peacock, Deputy Executive Director, Technology, Education Service Center Region 11; Randon Lance, Director of Network Services, Education Service Center Region 15 (collectively, the ESCs); Russell Neal, VST Services, E-rate consultant for Regions 10 and 11; and Gina Spade, counsel for the Region 10 ESC.

This meeting addressed the Petition for Rulemaking filed by Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc, and Totelcom Communications, LLC.<sup>2</sup> During our meeting, we discussed various issues raised in the comments and replies that the ESCs filed in that proceeding, including comments filed by Regions 10 and 11. We discussed how the consortium approach has helped Texas school districts obtain better service for lower prices, especially when compared to some of the existing carriers. We discussed how the Texas Carriers' Petition mischaracterized the competitive bidding processes conducted by the ESCs.

We also discussed how the Texas Carriers' proposed approach would harm, rather than foster, competition in the E-rate program, by giving incumbents a second bite at the apple and potentially disincentivizing competitors from bidding. Finally, we explained that the high-cost

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

<sup>2</sup> Petition for Rulemaking of Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Totelcom Communications, LLC, RM-11841, CC Docket No. 02-6, WC Docket No. 13-184 (filed May 22, 2019) (Texas Carriers' Petition or Petition).

and E-rate programs have different goals, and thus that the Texas Carriers' characterization of new fiber installation as duplicative and wasteful is incorrect.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gina Spade".

Gina Spade  
*Counsel to Texas ESC Region 10*

cc: Travis Litman